

RAFFT NEWS

Resource * Adoptive * Foster Families Team

SPOTSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WE APPRECIATE OUR RESOURCE FAMILIES!!

In appreciation for all of the love and support that our resource families show to our foster children, we were pleased to honor them recently at the 25th Annual RAFFT Foster Parent Training/Appreciation Event. The event was held on May 7, 2016 at Riverside Dinner Theater. The evening started with an inspirational training provided by Lisa Dolan, LCSW/Lead Social Worker for the Spotsylvania County Schools. Lisa and her husband are also former RAFFT foster parents who have adopted two children from foster care. Following the brief training, everyone was treated to a wonderful dinner, served by the cast and crew of the Riverside Dinner Theater production of My Fair Lady. The classical musical production followed and provided a memorable evening for all of our families to enjoy. My Fair Lady tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a London flower seller in Victorian times, who takes lessons from Professor Higgins in order to learn to “talk like a lady.” Her transformation forever changes her life as well as those who get to know her. An added bonus for our families was the performance of our Spotsylvania DSS attorney, Mr. Robert Beard, who gave a stellar performance as Colonel Pickering, a colleague of Professor Higgins. We had a wonderful turnout with a total of 107 attendees, which included 73 foster parents along with foster care workers, RAFFT, Gail Crooks, Director, and Ahuna Johnson, Deputy Director of Spotsylvania Social Services. We appreciate our foster families!



A special thanks to our resource families from Jan, Marilyn, and Debbie!

SPRING 2016



SPOTSYLVANIA DSS

How to reach us:

Jan Campbell– Training Specialist
540-507-7824

Marilyn Balog– Training Specialist
540-507-7817

Debbie Laton- RAFFT Case Aide
540-507-7852

Gail Crooks– Director

Ahuna Johnson- Deputy Director

P. O. Box 249

9019 Old Battlefield Boulevard

Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Main Number: 540-507-7898

Fax: 540-507-7810

NEW NAME UPDATE FOR RAFFT

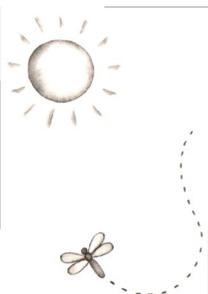
When RAFFT started in 1992, it was a regional program that was part of a new initiative in Virginia. One of the underlying goals was to recognize the importance of a team to provide recruitment, training, approval and support of foster families to serve our foster children. As a regional

program we added homes from several localities and through the support of our foster families, we continue to have homes in Spotsylvania County and the surrounding area. We value each member of our team! In an effort to better reflect our mission, we are tweaking our name to

better explain exactly what we do. We are still RAFFT, but now the letters will stand for:

Resource * Adoptive * Foster Families Team

Everything else remains the same and we will continue to strive to do our best to support our wonderful resource families!





NEW RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE 7/1/16

The Virginia Department of Social Services has approved a rate increase for foster care board rates that will be effective on 7/1/16. Foster parents with an existing foster care placement will receive a letter from their foster care worker explaining the rate change. The changes will be reflected in August checks. The rates are as follows:

New Maintenance Payment Rates Effective 7/1/16

Age of child	Room & board	Clothing	Personal Care	Monthly allowance	Total
0-4	\$322	\$59	\$90	0	\$471
5-12	\$369	\$76	\$97	\$10	\$552
13 & up	\$448	\$118	\$104	\$30	\$700
Ind. Living					\$644

Supplemental Clothing Allowance

Age 0-4	\$315
Age 5-12	\$394
Age 13 & over	\$473

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS PROTOCOL

We recently sent out an email from the Foster Care Supervisor regarding the protocol to follow if a foster child in your home requires acute mental health services (in need of urgent care) such as an emergency assessment for serious depression or suicidal ideation. If this situation occurs after hours please follow one of these options:

- Please call RACSB (Rappahannock Area Community Services Board) at 540-373-6876
- OR**
- Take the child directly to the Emergency Room at Mary Washington Hospital at 1001 Sam Perry Boulevard, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401.

Please do not take the child to Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center for mental health emergencies as they are not equipped to handle these situations for our youth at this time.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2016

Scheduled:

Summer PRIDE Pre-Service Classes:

- 6/20/16– Sessions 1 & 2
- 7/11/16– Sessions 3 & 4
- 7/25/16– Sessions 5 & 6
- 8/8/16– Sessions 7 & 8
- 8/22/16– Sessions 9 & 10

Orientation for potential new families:

- 7/25/16 from 6:30-8:00pm

Fall PRIDE Pre-Service Classes:

- 9/12/16– 11/14/16

Now Being Planned– Details to Follow:

- 3rd Annual Bowling Event & Take Home Training
- CPI- Crisis Prevention Intervention Training
- November Adoption Awareness Month Training and Celebration

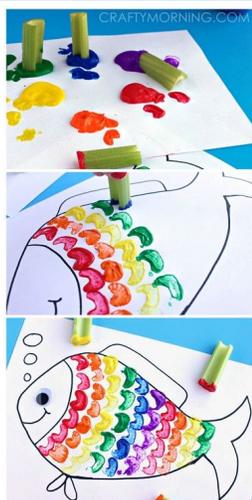


- RAFFT Sponsored In-Service Trainings. Topics under consideration are:
 - ◇ Adverse Childhood Experiences
 - ◇ CPR/ First Aid
 - ◇ Trauma Informed Care

If there are other topics you would like us to consider offering, please call Jan or Marilyn at 540-507-7824 or 540-507-7817.

KIDS PAGE

CELERY STAMP A RAINBOW FISH!



What You Need:

- Paper
- Celery— cut up— one for each color of paint
- Sharpie
- Paint in various rainbow colors
- One googly eye (optional)
- Glue (optional)

How To Do It:

- Let the child draw a large outline of a fish, or draw one for them if they need help

- Help them glue the googly eye in place and allow it to dry
- Use a paper plate or piece of paper and let them squeeze out paint in different colors as shown.
- To make the fish scales, have them dip the end of the sliced celery piece into a paint color and stamp it onto the fish
- Repeat with other colors

Taken from craftymorning.com on Pinterest

SAND CLAY HANDPRINT KEEPSAKES

What You Need:

- 2 cups sand
- 1 & 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup of warm water
- 1 & 1/4 cups of salt
- Large bowl and spoon
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet & rolling pin
- Sea shells (optional)

How To Do It:

- Mix together sand, flour, and salt in a large bowl with a spoon
- Slowly add warm water mixing as you go

- If the dough is too sticky, add more sand. If it gets too dry, add more warm water
- Once mixed, take out of bowl and knead on a floured surface until consistency of play doh
- Divide and roll out into a circle about 3/4 inches onto wax of parchment paper on baking sheet
- Help the child carefully press their hand into the dough
- Decorate with sea shells
- Bake at 250 degrees for about 4 hours or until hardened. You may need to gently turn over and bake other side until hard



Taken from the Imagination Tree on Pinterest.com

ICE AGE DINOSAUR DIG



Taken from Paging fun Mums on Pinterest.com

What You Need:

- Balloons
- Water
- Small plastic dinosaurs
- Food coloring (optional)
- Small mallet or hammer
- Safety goggles

How To Do It:

- Place dinosaur in balloon

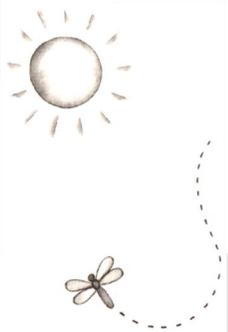
- Add water or colored water
- Tie end of balloon & place in freezer for two hours
- When frozen, remove from freezer & remove balloon
- Place the ice ball on a water-proof or protected surface
- Put on safety goggles

- With adult supervision, gently tap the ice with a small mallet or small hammer to chip away at the ice.

You can also substitute other “fossil finds” in place of the plastic dinosaurs.

Let the archaeological dig begin!

RAFFT NEWS



Resource * Adoptive * Foster Families Team

80 low cost or no cost summer activity ideas

- Fly a kite
- Make a rain catcher
- Make a dream catcher
- Make wind chimes
- Make a summer scrapbook
- Make paper airplanes
- Make paper boats
- Fill a trampoline with water balloons
- Go for a walk
- Go on a nature trail
- Go hunting mini beasts
- Volunteer
- Bird watch
- Play tig/tag
- Go foraging
- Play a board game
- Design a treasure hunt
- Feed the ducks
- Play cards
- Write to a pen pal
- Learn a dance
- Camp in the garden
- Make homemade ice lollies
- Play charades
- Play with lego
- Build a cardboard town
- Visit the library
- Make homemade bubbles
- Play Simon says
- Paint with watercolours
- Draw with chalk
- Play hopscotch
- Have a water balloon fight
- Build a sand or mud castle
- Tell jokes
- Make cookies
- Play dominoes
- Learn a song
- Camp in the garden
- Have a no talking contest
- Make puppets
- Learn to fold origami
- Build an indoor den
- Dry flowers
- Learn to skip
- Have a water fight
- Play cricket
- Have a dance contest
- Play football
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Play rock paper scissors
- Do a jigsaw puzzle
- Write poems
- Have a pillow fight
- Water the plants
- Take pictures
- Dress up
- Climb a tree
- Make fairy cakes
- Wash a car
- Play catch
- Cycle round the block
- Write a story
- Pick flowers
- Make shadow puppets
- Have scooter races
- Go to the park
- Go to the beach
- Have a picnic
- Make a comic
- Thumb wrestle
- Bounce on a trampoline
- Plant seeds
- Play rounders'
- Tell jokes
- Decorate biscuits
- Make thank you cards
- Walk the dog
- Play Frisbee
- Go geocaching

www.athriftymum.com

Christy Munn

Taken from a British post on Pinterest.com. Tig tag is a British version of the game of Tag. Have fun researching some of the differences in American and British terms and ways of spelling words!